

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/526847

REC'D 06 JAN 2005	
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 57905WO003	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US 03/27223	International filing date (day/month/year) 29.08.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 05.09.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A47L17/08		
Applicant 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion
II	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority
III	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention
V	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited
VII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application
VIII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 26.03.2004	Date of completion of this report 10.01.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Cabral Matos, A Telephone No. +31 70 340-2668



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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-33 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).
(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	5,6,15,18,29,30
	No: Claims	1-4,7-14,16,17,19-28,31-33
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-33
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-33
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: EP0632990A (CORONET WERKE GMBH) 11 January 1995 (1995-01-11)
- D2: US4421809 (BISH, S.S. ET AL) 20 December 1983 (1983-12-20)
- D3: DATABASE WPI Section PQ, Week 200246 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class P28, AN 2002-429438 XP002265379 -& JP 2002 017619 A (HOKII GIKEN KK ET AL) 22 January 2002 (2002-01-22)

2 Lack of novelty

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matters of claims 1,14,20 are not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

2.1 Independent Claim 1

The document **D1** discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document; cf. figures):

The use, as a domestic scouring material (cf. column 4, line 3), of a flocked (cf. column 6, line 2) substrate wherein the flock comprises fibres (5) that are arranged substantially perpendicular to the substrate (1) and have a maximum length of 2.0 mm (cf. column 4, lines 6,7), the fibres being substantially free of abrasive particles (cf. column 4, lines 16-18: abrasive particles are an optional feature).

Therefore claim 1 is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

2.2 Independent Claim 14

The document **D2** discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document; cf. figure):

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A cleaning article comprising a flocked substrate (3) laminated to a layer of foam (5), wherein the flock comprises fibres (1) that are arranged substantially perpendicular to the surface of the substrate (3) to which they are secured and have a maximum length of 2.0 mm (column 2, line 40 to 57), the fibres being substantially free of abrasive particles.

Therefore claim 14 is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

2.3 Independent Claim 20

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document; cf. figures):

A cleaning article comprising a flocked wipe (column 2, line 4 to 10) wherein the flock comprises fibres (5) that are arranged substantially perpendicular to the surface of the wipe (1) to which they are secured and have a maximum length of 2.0 mm (cf. column 4, lines 6,7), the fibres being substantially free of abrasive particles (cf. column 4, lines 16-18: abrasive particles are an optional feature).

Therefore claim 20 is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

3 Dependent claims

Dependent claims 2 to 13, 15 to 19, 21 to 33 do not seem to contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step, see documents D1 to D3 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.